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## CLAIMS

- 5 1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a S.  
epidermidis polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2838 - SEQ  
ID NO: 5674.
2. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably  
10 linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. A method for producing a S. epidermidis polypeptide comprising culturing a cell  
15 of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a S.  
epidermidis polypeptide or a fragment thereof, said nucleic acid selected from the group  
consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 .
- 20 6. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably  
linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
- 25 8. A method for producing a S. epidermidis polypeptide comprising culturing a cell  
of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 8 nucleotides of  
30 a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID  
NO: 2837.

10. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837.
11. A vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of a *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a nucleic acid of claim 5.
12. A vaccine composition of claim 11, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
13. A vaccine composition of claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an adjuvant.
14. A method of treating a subject for *S. epidermidis* infection comprising administering to a subject a vaccine composition of claim 11, such that treatment of *S. epidermidis* infection occurs.
15. A method of claim 14, wherein the treatment is a prophylactic treatment.
16. A method of claim 14, wherein the treatment is a therapeutic treatment.
17. A recombinant or substantially pure preparation of a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2838 - SEQ ID NO: 5674.
18. A vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of a *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of claim 17.

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19. A vaccine composition of claim 18, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. A vaccine composition of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an adjuvant.
21. A method of treating a subject for *S. epidermidis* infection comprising administering to a subject a vaccine composition of claim 18, such that treatment of *S. epidermidis* infection occurs.
22. A method of claim 21, wherein the treatment is a prophylactic treatment.
23. A method of claim 21, wherein the treatment is a therapeutic treatment.
24. A method for detecting the presence of a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in a sample comprising:
- (a) contacting a sample with a nucleic acid of claim 5 under conditions in which a hybrid can form between the probe and a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in the sample; and
  - (b) detecting the hybrid formed in step (a), wherein detection of a hybrid indicates the presence of a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in the sample.
25. A computer readable medium having recorded thereon the nucleotide sequences depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof.
26. A computer based system for identifying fragments of the *Staphylococcus* genome of commercial importance comprising the following elements;
- a) a data storage means comprising the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 and fragments thereof,
  - b) a search means for comparing a target sequence to the nucleotide sequences of the data storage means of step (a) to identify homologous sequences, and;

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c) a retrieval means for obtaining said homologous sequences(s) of step (b).

27. A method of identifying commercially important nucleic acid fragments of the  
Staphylococcus genome comprising the step of comparing a database comprising the  
5 nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof with a  
target sequence to obtain a nucleic acid molecule comprised of a complementary  
nucleotide sequence to said target sequence, wherein said target sequence is not randomly  
selected.
- 10 28. A method for identifying an expression modulating fragment of the  
Staphylococcus genome comprising the step of comparing a database comprising the  
nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof with a  
target sequence to obtain a nucleic acid molecule comprised of a complementary  
nucleotide sequence to said target sequence, wherein said target sequence comprises  
15 sequences known regulate gene expression.